

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE  
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COMPETENCY MINUTES**

Friday, September 22, 2006

Department of Health Professions

Richmond, VA

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the Committee convened at 1:15 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Malcolm Cothran, MD, President  
Claudette Dalton, MD  
Suzanne Everhart, DO  
Stephen Heretick JD  
Pam Mazmanian, MA  
Mary Alice O'Donnell, PhD  
Debi Potter, CPMSM, CPCS

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** David Ellington, MD

**STAFF PRESENT:** William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director  
Jennifer Deschenes, Deputy Director, Discipline  
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst  
Colanthia M. Opher, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** W. Scott Johnson, HDJN  
Beatrix Hamm, UMDNJ  
Andrea Ciccone, NBME

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2006**

Dr. Everhart moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Heretick moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Issues Concerning Initial Competency**

Dr. Cothran asked the members to introduce themselves and state what perspective they were bringing to the table, and also what they wanted to see this committee accomplish.

After the introductions, Dr. Harp gave a brief history of the issue and the focus of the initial subcommittee advising that its purpose had been to look at continued competency only. Dr. Harp stated that since the subcommittee's last meeting, the issue of initial competency was raised as being a point of contention. Dr. Harp pointed out the educational requirements under Virginia laws and regulations and the committee discussed at length the requirements of licensing examinations and specialty boards. Dr. O'Donnell and Ms. Potter provided their perspective of initial competency issues including the issue of funding.

Dr. Cothran led the discussion on continuing competency and discussed current Virginia law and regulations and the lack of addressing the issue of specialty practitioners making career changes into general practice.

Mr. Heretick advised that he had attended the FSMB summit where their groups had the task of defining in context which competencies would be elevated in the next 10-15 years. Mr. Heretick advised that at the first summit the task was to come up-to-date with where the medical profession has been over the past 100 years, see where it is today and begin to identify the drivers that will be governing then profession in the next decade. Mr. Heretick stated that some of the information that is gathered by this ad hoc will be taken back to FSMB and will be of assistance to all parties involved.

During the discussion, the committee heard and discussed issues including the board's limitation on setting certain requirements, the authority to set qualifications, the issue of licensing by specialties, the pros and cons of peer review, upcoming national exam changes, and the need to be proactive versus reactive, etc.

Dr. Harp posed the question "what's broken that needs to be fixed" to the Committee. Dr. Cothran remarked that part of the initial competency should require physicians to have finished a program in their area of expertise in residency program or be board certified.

Dr. Cothran suggested that initial competency be the focus of the next meeting and that staff contact the South Dakota board for additional information on their requirements for completion of a residency program prior to licensure. Ms. Yeatts suggested that a discussion on what can be gained by increasing the number of years of graduate education also be included on the next agenda.

### **Next meeting**

December 8, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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Malcolm L. Cothran, Jr., MD, Chair

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William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director

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Colanthia M. Opher, Recording Secretary